The quantity of foodgrains allotted to all States and UTs under the scheme since its inception is as follows:

Year	Quantity (In MTs)
1995-96	7.13 lakh
1996-97	15.86 lakh
1997-98	25.68 lakh

(c) An amount of Rs. 1070.38 crore was spent by the Central Government on this scheme during 1997-98.

(d) and (e) As the programme has been extended to all blocks and urban areas in the country only in the year 1997-98, it has not been possible to conduct any formal review or evaluation of the scheme so far.

(f) and (g) According to present indications, the scheme is expected to continue during the Ninth Plan.

[English]

National Environment Fund

*77. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Environmental Fund for developing forests with the help of global agencies like the UNDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received financial assistance from International Institution Agencies/ Organisations during the last five years for setting up National Parks/sanctuaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the position of utilisation of funds and the deficiencies observed in the implementation of the programme as per the guidelines by the State Governments and action taken/ proposed for mid course correction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) No financial assistance has been received from any international agency for setting up of National Parks/sanctuaries. However, a project titled "India Eco Development Project" funded by IDA/GEF is under implementation and it aims for bio-diversity conservation through eco development in Seven National Parks/Tiger Reserves. The project is in its initial stages of implementation with an outlay of Rs. 294.93 crores over a period of five years. The project has provisions for mid-term evaluation to rectify the deficiencies, if any, observed during the implementation of the programme.

Compensation to Students

*78. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Question Papers set up for the Class X and XII examinations conducted by C.B.S.E. in 1998 were out of syllabus and too lengthy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to compensate the students on this count; and

(d) is so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Question Papers set in Class X and Class XII examinations held in 1998 were within the scope of the syllabus and pattern prescribed by the Board.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

*79. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN :
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any requests from various States regarding the declaration of New National Highways and are considering to convert some State Highways into National Highways during the current year as well as Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof alongwith the names and stretches of each State Highway likely to be converted into National Highway during the said period; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be declared as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Proposals for declaration of new National Highways from various State Governments have been received and during the year 1997-98, Government has already declared 18 new National Highways aggregating to a length of 4219 Kms in different States details of which have been given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) As the 9th Plan is yet to be finalised and the resource position is not known, it is not possible to indicate any time frame for further declaration of new National Highways.

Statement

S.No. in the schedule to the National Highways Act, 1956.	National Highway No. state through which passes and approx. length in Kms.	Description of National Highways
1	2	3
13-J	NH No. 57 (Bihar - 310)	The highway starting from its junction at Muzaffarpur on NH No. 28 connecting Darbhanga-Thaebitia-Forbesganj-Purnea to terminate at Purnea on NH No. 31 in Bihar.
67	NH No. 58 (U.P. - 527)	The highway starting from its junction with NH-24 in Km 17.65 near Ghaziabad and passing through Meerut, Muzzaffar Nagar, Roorkee, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Rudra Prayag, Chamoli, Joshimath, Badrinath and terminating at Mana in Uttar Pradesh.
68	59 (M.P - 139) Gujarat - 211)	The highway starting from its junction on NH No.8 on Ahmedabad Bypass Connecting Balasionor Sevaliya Godhra-Limkheda-Dohad in Gujarat-Jhabua-Sardarpura-Dhar-Junction with Indore-Ratlam road near Ghat Bilod to terminate at Indore on NH No. 3 in Madhya Pradesh.
69	60 (Orissa - 57) (West Bengal - 68)	The highway starting from Balasore on NH No. 5 connecting Rupas-Jaleswar in Orissa-Dantan-Belda-Kasba Narayangarh and terminating at Kharagpur on NH No. 6 in West Bengal.
47.	NH No. 61 (Nagaland-220 Assam - 20 240)	The highway starting from its junction near Kohima on NH No. 39 in Nagaland and connecting Wokha-Mokokchung Amguri and terminating at its junction with NH No. 37 near Jhanji in Assam.
42-A	Extension of NH 52 A (Arunachal Pradesh-22 Assam - 10 32)	The highway starting from its junction near Itanagar on NH No. 52 A in Arunachal Pradesh and terminating at its junction with NH No. 52 near Gohpur in Assam
48	NH 52-B (Assam-31)	The highway starting from its junction on NH 52 near Kuljan and terminating at its junction with NH 37 in Assam.
33-B	Extension of NH 44 (Tripura - 135)	The highway starting from its junction near Agartala on NH 44 and terminating at Sabroom in Tripura.
49	NH No. 62 (Assam - 5) Meghalaya-125 130	The highway starting from its junction on NH 37 near Damra in Assam and terminating at Baghmara in Meghalaya.
13 GG.	NH.No. 17-B (Goa-40)	The highway starting from its junction with NH 4 A near Panda connecting Barim-Verna and terminating near Vasco in Goa.
50.	NH.NO. 63 (Karnataka - 370 Andhra Pradesh-62 432	The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 17 near Ankola in Karnataka and connecting Hubli-Hospet and terminating at its junction with NH No. 7 near Gooty in Andhra Pradesh.
51.	NH No. 64 (Punjab - 225)	The highway starting from its junction on NH No. 22 near Chandigarh and connecting Rajpura-Patiala-Sangrur and terminating at its junction with NH No. 15 Near Bhatinda in Punjab.

1	2	3
52.	NH No. 65 (Haryana-240 Rajasthan-170 410	The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 1 near Ambala in Haryana and connecting Kaithal-Hissar and terminating at its junction with NH No. 11 near Fatehpur in Rajasthan.
53	NH No.66 (Pondicherry-10 Tamil Nadu - 234 244	The highway starting from its Junction with NH-45A in Pondicherry & connecting Tindivanam-Gingee-Thiruvan-namalai and terminating at its junction with NH No. 7 near Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu.
54	NH No. 67 (Tamil Nadu-217)	The highway starting from Nagapattinam and connecting Trichy and terminating at its junction on NH No. 7 near Karur in Tamil Nadu
55	NH No. 68 (Tamil Nadu-134)	The highway starting from its junction on NH No. 45 near Ulundurpet and terminating at its junction with NH No. 7 near Salem in Tamil Nadu.
56	NH No. 69 (Maharashtra - 55 Madhya Pradesh-295 350)	The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 6 near Nagpur in Maharashtra and terminating at its junction with NH No. 12 near Obaidullaganj in Madhya Pradesh.
7-A	Extension of NH No. 6 (Maharashtra -127 Gujarat-160 287)	The highway starting from its junction with NH No. 6 near Dhule in Maharashtra and terminating at Surat in Gujarat.
	Total 4219	

[English]

National Culture Fund

*80. SHRI S.S. OWAISI
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a National culture fund to preserve and promote Indian culture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked industries to contribute to this fund;

(d) if so, the number of industries who contributed to this fund;

(e) whether Government have failed to provide fund of their share; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and efforts made by the Government to increase National Culture Fund?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have set up a National Culture Fund (NCF) in terms of a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 28.11.96. Copies of the Notification are already available in the Parliament Library.

(c) The NCF may accept contributions from statutory bodies created under the Acts of Parliament or of State Legislatures, the United Nations and its associated bodies, other international organisations, private and public corporate sectors both in India and abroad, international charitable/philanthropic organisations, non-resident Indians, trusts, societies and individuals.

(d) The Oberoi Group of Hotels and the National Mineral Development Corp. Ltd. have contributed Rs. 5,00,000/- and Rs. 25,000/- respectively to the National Culture Fund.

(e) and (f) No Sir. The Government has released Rs. 4 crores to the NCF as per the budgetary provisions.

Anomalies in Pay Scales of Primary Teachers

643. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some anomalies in the pay scales of primary school teachers as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission;